

# The David Sarnoff Library Collection Processing Project

[www.hagley.org/sarnoff-library-project](http://www.hagley.org/sarnoff-library-project)

## Overview

The David Sarnoff Library collection is being processed for research, thanks to a 2013 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). Work on the collection, which totals nearly 3,000 linear feet and encompasses papers, publications, and audiovisual materials, began in May 2014 and will continue through the fall of 2016. The entire collection will open for research in early 2017.



## The Rise and Fall of a Legendary American Corporation

### Innovation in Technical Reports Cataloging

The David Sarnoff Library collection includes thousands of technical reports produced by RCA Laboratories and other RCA units. They offer a remarkably detailed look at RCA's research and development efforts. Providing access on a limited schedule with a staff unfamiliar with MARC cataloging led us to using EOS KnowledgeBuilder (KB), a component of EOS.Web, the integrated library system. KB allows us to create a custom template for bibliographic records.

Although not in MARC, the records appear in the library catalog and are compatible with the authority files. The benefit of KB is that it supports importing data from spreadsheets. Staff entering the cataloging information see only a few clearly defined columns. The project archivist then uses simple functions in Excel to format the data as it will appear in the library catalog. The records cannot be exported to OCLC, but can be cataloged quickly and with less user error.



## Contents

The collection includes the original David Sarnoff Collection, assembled by Sarnoff and his staff to document his remarkable career. Over the years the library acquired many research records, the papers of individual scientists, photographs, films and sound recordings, that document the pioneering research and development conducted at the David Sarnoff Research Center and other RCA facilities.



## The David Sarnoff Library opened in 1967

## Summary

The CLIR grant is making it possible to fast-track the accessibility of this important collection. The papers of an iconic leader, as well as the documents of the innovative company he led, and its influence, rise, and fall, will inform discussion not only among historians, but also among entrepreneurs, business leaders, economists, product designers, and many others.

Hagley Museum and Library collects, preserves, and interprets the unfolding history of American enterprise. Hagley's collections document the interaction between business, innovation, and the cultural, social, and political dimensions of our society from the late 18th century to the present.

## A Closed Collection Opening Again



## Outreach and Scholarly Engagement

- Cooperation with The College of New Jersey on collection care and development, material exchange, RCA alumni donations, exhibitions, and possible future projects, such as collaboration with Rowan University's RCA Heritage Program.
- Promotion through traditional and social media, such as Tumblr, NPR, Facebook, and the Chemical Heritage Magazine.
- Three guest lectures by project staff scheduled for the Spring of 2015 at the University of Delaware.



Hagley Museum and Library  
298 Buck Road  
Wilmington, DE  
302.658.2400  
[www.hagley.org](http://www.hagley.org)

Ken Cleary, Project Archivist  
[kcleary@hagley.org](mailto:kcleary@hagley.org)

Daniel Michelson, Project Archivist  
[dmichelson@hagley.org](mailto:dmichelson@hagley.org)

Erik Rau, Director, Library Services  
[erau@hagley.org](mailto:erau@hagley.org)

Lynn Catanese, Curator, Manuscripts & Archives  
[lcatanese@hagley.org](mailto:lcatanese@hagley.org)

Kevin Martin, Curator, Audiovisual & Digital Initiatives  
[kmartin@hagley.org](mailto:kmartin@hagley.org)

Max Moeller, Curator, Published Collections  
[mmoeller@hagley.org](mailto:mmoeller@hagley.org)